

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231, on

Date: 9-5-00 Signature: Christopher J. Scott Signed By: CHRISTOPHER J. SCOTT

PATENT

Our Case No. 00172

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Savenok, Peter

Serial No.: To Be Assigned

Filed: To Be Assigned

For: Method For Manufacture Of A
Balustrade Of Synthetic Material
And Apparatus Thereof



Art Unit: To Be Assigned

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT BEFORE ACTION

Dear Honorable Commissioner:

Applicant respectfully requests that the following amendment be entered before the filing fee is calculated.

IN THE TITLE

Please cancel the present title, and substitute instead:

--Method Of Manufacturing A Balustrade of Synthetic Material---

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, line 5, after "This is a" insert divisional of Application No. 09/286,796,
filed April 6, 1999, which is a

On page 1, delete lines 8-12, and insert instead The present invention relates generally
to a new and improved method of manufacturing a synthetic stone rail, and more specifically, to
a method of manufacturing a synthetic stone rail article in the form of a balustrade product
containing holes for receiving a connecting structure.

On page 2, line 9, after "method" please delete "and apparatus".

On page 2, line 11, after "novel" please delete "features and devices" and insert instead --
steps--.

On page 2, line 15, after "improved" delete "method and apparatus for forming a
balustrade product. It is another object to provide a balustrade having a connection structure that
allows for a quick and easy connection of a balustrade with a post or support structure." and
insert instead a method of manufacturing a balustrade product comprising the steps of,

providing a mold having a first half and a second half, the first and second mold halves defining
an inner cylindrical surface, stabilizing a plurality of hollow pipes within the mold parallel to the
longitudinal axis of the mold and in close proximity to the inner cylindrical surface, pouring a
predetermined amount of casting material into the second half of the mold, securing the first and
second mold halves together, rotating said mold until the casting material has set to form the
balustrade product, and removing the balustrade product from the mold.

On page 3, line 1, after "method" delete "and apparatus".

On page 3, line 8, before "alignment" delete "properly" and insert instead --proper--.

On page 4, line 21, after "method" delete "and apparatus".

On page 8, line 4, after "view" insert -of--.

On page 9, line 6, after "Application No." delete "08/910,636, filed August 13, 1997" and insert instead -09/286,796, filed April 6, 1999--.

On page 10, line 16, after "conventional" delete "designed" and insert instead -design--.

On page 13, line 4, before "mold is closed" insert -the--.

On page 13, line 19, before "an extruded aluminum" delete "a".

On page 14, line 2, before "being cut" insert -balustrade product 10--.

On page 15, line 10, after "spring acts to" delete "forces" and insert instead -force--.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please cancel the present abstract, and substitute instead:

By What is disclosed is a method of manufacturing a balustrade product comprising the steps of, providing a mold having a first half and a second half, the first and second mold halves defining an inner cylindrical surface, stabilizing a plurality of hollow pipes within the mold parallel to the longitudinal axis of the mold and in close proximity to the inner cylindrical surface, pouring a predetermined amount of casting material into the second half of the mold, securing the first and second mold halves together, rotating said mold until the casting material has set to form the balustrade product, and removing the balustrade product from the mold.

IN THE CLAIMS CANCEL

Please cancel claims 1-15 without prejudice.

IN THE CLAIMS AMEND

In Claim 16, line 2, after "form" insert ~~of--~~.

In Claim 16, line 3, after "defining" delete "a" and insert instead ~~an--~~.

In Claim 16, line 23, after "rotating" delete ~~,"~~.

In Claim 17, line 1, after "made from" delete ~~"a"~~.

In Claim 19, line 1, before "mold" insert ~~centrifugal--~~.

In Claim 19, line 1, after "mold" delete ~~"being made of a"~~ and insert instead ~~is~~
comprised of--.

IN THE CLAIMS ADD

10054661-0505006
25
Rule 1.126 21. A method of manufacturing a balustrade product comprising the steps of:

providing a mold having an inner cylindrical surface defining a cavity,

extending the plurality of hollow pipes within the mold to be integrated into the
balustrade product, the hollow pipes spanning substantially the entire length of the cavity,

35 securing the hollow pipes within the cavity of the mold in a preset position that is
parallel to its longitudinal axis and in close proximity to the inner cylindrical surface,

pouring a predetermined amount of casting material into the mold,

rotating said mold until the casting material has set to form the balustrade product,

and

removing the balustrade product from the mold.

Rule 1.126 ²⁶ 26. The method of claim ²⁵ 25, wherein the step of securing the hollow pipes within the cavity further comprising the steps of providing a plurality of supports within the mold having a plurality of openings, and extending the plurality of hollow pipes through the plurality of openings, wherein the diameter of each opening is slightly larger than the diameter of the hollow pipe passing therethrough.

Rule 1.126 ²⁷ 27. The method of claim ²⁶ 26 further comprising the step of engaging a plurality of tabs radially outwardly extending from the supports against the inner cylindrical surface of the mold thereby assisting in holding the hollow pipes in a suspended preset position within the mold.

Rule 1.126 ²⁸ 28. The method of claim ²⁷ 27 further comprising the step of engaging a plurality of tabs radially outwardly extending from the supports against the inner cylindrical surface of the mold thereby embedding the tabs in the balustrade product after the casting material has set.

Rule 1.126 ²⁹ 29. The method of claim ²⁵ 25 further comprising the step of grinding the outer surface of the balustrade product after removing the balustrade product from the mold to provide a smooth outer surface.

Rule 1.126 ³⁰ 30. The method of claim ²⁵ 25, wherein the casting material comprises a slurry of synthetic stone material.

Rule 1.126 ³¹ 27.

A method of manufacturing a balustrade product comprising the steps of:

providing a mold having a first half and a second half, the first and second mold halves defining an inner cylindrical surface,

stabilizing a plurality of hollow pipes within the mold parallel to the longitudinal axis of the mold and in close proximity to the inner cylindrical surface,

pouring a predetermined amount of casting material into the second half of the mold,

securing the first and second mold halves together,

rotating said mold until the casting material has set to form the balustrade product,

and

removing the balustrade product from the mold.

10054661.000500
Rule 1.126 ³² 28.
B₁
(con't)

The method of claim ³¹ 27, wherein the step of stabilizing comprises the steps of extending the plurality of hollow pipes through a plurality of openings in a plurality of supports, and placing same in the second mold half.

Rule 1.126 ³³ 29.

The method of claim ³² 28 further comprising the step of spacing the plurality of supports longitudinally along the length of the plurality of hollow pipes at predetermined intervals.

Rule 1.126 ³⁴ 30.

The method of claim ³³ 29 further comprising the step of engaging a plurality of

tabs radially outwardly extending from the supports against the inner cylindrical surface of the mold thereby assisting in holding the hollow pipes in a suspended preset position within the mold.

*Br
(concl'd)
Rule 1.126* 31. ³⁵ The method of claim ³⁴ ~~30~~ further comprising the step of engaging a plurality of tabs radially outwardly extending from the supports against the inner cylindrical surface of the mold thereby embedding the tabs in the balustrade product after the casting material has set.

CONCLUSION

Applicant now believes that application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Attorney for Applicant

Charles F. Meroni, Jr.
Charles F. Meroni, Jr.
Registration No. 20,109

(847) 304-1500

Meroni & Meroni
P.O. Box 309
Barrington, IL 60011

August 14, 2000

10054661.090500